



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,075	12/05/2003	Jeffrey D. Gatt	1690.03002	8785

7590 08/22/2007
SIMON, GALASSO & FRANTZ PLC.
P.O. Box 26503
Austin, TX 78755-0503

EXAMINER

SCIACCA, SCOTT M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2146

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

08/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/729,075

Applicant(s)

GATT, JEFFREY D.

Examiner

Scott M. Sciacca

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/17/2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 24 appears to be a dependent claim but does not indicate the claim which it is dependent from. Examiner assumes that the applicant intended Claim 24 to depend from Claim 21 and will treat it as such. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

<http://www.leaguelineup.com/> (hereinafter League Lineup).

Regarding Claim 1, League Lineup teaches a computer-implemented method for facilitating group management functionality, comprising:

maintaining a group instantiation including information representing a group of members and a group activity participated in by said members, creating a website structure instantiation including content fields corresponding to at least a portion of said information, and creating a group activity publication layout including content fields corresponding to at least a portion of said information (where information representing a group activity, creating a website structure instantiation, and creating a group activity publication is to “Build a Free League or Team Web Site” – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 2, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein:

maintaining the information instantiation is performed by an information management module of a group management system (where the user adds information and content to the team website – See page 9), creating the website structure instantiation is performed by a group communication module of the group management system (where the user creates a customized website for his or her team – See page 9), and creating the group activity publication layout is performed by a group activity publishing module of the group management system (where creating the publication layout is displaying the created website to a second user – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 3, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein:

creating the website structure instantiation includes associating each one of said website structure instantiation content fields with a respective portion of said information, and creating the group activity publication layout includes associating at least a portion of said publication layout content fields with respective portions of said information (where the website includes

Art Unit: 2146

displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information).

Regarding Claim 4, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein:

said information includes an administrator dataset and a plurality of participant datasets;

the administrator dataset includes administrator content for at least one of the group activity publication and the website structure instantiation and includes content parameters for at least one of a group activity publication and a website structure instantiation (where the administrator dataset consists of content that is added or modified by one or more administrators – See page 9);

each one of said participant datasets includes participant content for at least one of the group activity publication and the website structure instantiation (where the participant dataset consists of data that is publicly available to users who browse the team website – See page 12); and

creating the website structure instantiation includes populating a website template instantiation with respective portions of said participant content and said administrator content at least partially dependent upon said content parameters (the team website entitled “Welcome to the home of the CVBA” – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 5, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 4, further comprising: automatically updating content of the website structure instantiation in response to corresponding

Art Unit: 2146

portions said datasets being altered thereby enabling said content of the website structure instantiation being dynamically maintained (the website content reflects content that has been added by a user (i.e. posting the results of a recent game) – See “Simple online administration” on page 9).

Regarding Claim 6, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein creating the website structure instantiation includes:

providing the website structure instantiation with a first access level through which group activity publication creation functionality is exclusively accessible (an administrator creates or modifies the team website – See page 9);

providing the website structure instantiation with a second access level including a plurality of respective content fields, wherein a first portion of said content fields of the second access level are system-defined and a second portion of said content fields of the second access level are specified through access to the first access level (a user may register with League Lineup and post or reply to messages in the forum belonging to a team website – See “Register Now!” on page 9); and

providing the website structure instantiation with a third access level including publicly accessible content, wherein information comprising said publicly accessible content is inputted through at least one of the first access level and the second access level (the team website is accessed over the internet by the public after it is created – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 7, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein:

the group activity publication layout includes a plurality of publication

content fields (the website includes displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12); and

said creating the group activity publication layout includes associating

each one of said publication content fields with a respective portion of said information (the content fields include links to the corresponding information – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 8, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein:

creating the group activity publication includes preparing a group activity publication layout, wherein the group activity publication layout includes system-defined content fields (the website includes displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12) and optional content fields corresponding to user-selected publication content options (the team website is “Completely customizable (colors, fonts, menu options, etc.)” – See page 9; the team website may also include photo albums and online polls – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 9, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein creating the group activity publication layout includes:

Art Unit: 2146

accessing group activity publication layout information in response to a user requesting creation of an activity publication, wherein said group activity publication layout information designates a plurality of textual content fields and a plurality of image content fields (League Lineup offers “Simple online administration” where a user may create a team website and add text and images which include team photos, schedules, game results and various other statistics’ – See page 9);

associating at least a portion of said textual content fields with respective portions of content of the website structure instantiation (the list of content fields displayed on the team website includes links to the information corresponding to each content field – See page 12); and

associating each one of said image content fields with a respective one of a plurality of image instantiations (photos may be sorted into separate albums corresponding to different events or categories – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 10, League Lineup teaches the method of Claim 1 wherein creating the group activity publication layout includes:

accessing group activity publication layout information corresponding to the group instantiation, wherein said group activity publication layout information designates a plurality of publication content fields (the team website is “Completely customizable (colors, fonts, menu options, etc.)” – See page 9); and

associating each one of said publication content fields with a respective portion of said information representing the group of members and the group activity participated in by said

Art Unit: 2146

members (the website includes displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 11, League Lineup teaches a group management system, comprising:

at least one data processing device (the user utilizes a personal computer to

access League Lineup online – See page 9);

instructions processable by said at least one data processing device (the user

utilizes a web browser installed on the personal computer to access League

Lineup online – See page 9); and

an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by said at least one

data processing device (the web browser used to access League Lineup is

accessed either from the personal computer's local storage or remotely);

wherein said instructions are configured for enabling said at least one data

processing device to facilitate:

maintaining a group instantiation including information representing

associated with a group of members and a group activity

participated in by said members, creating a website structure

instantiation including content fields corresponding to at least a

portion of said information, and creating a group activity

publication layout including content fields corresponding to at least

a portion of said information (where information representing a

group activity, creating a website structure instantiation, and

creating a group activity publication is to “Build a Free League or Team Web Site” – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 12, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 11 wherein:

maintaining the information instantiation is performed by an information

management module of a group management system (where the user adds

information and content to the team website – See page 9);

creating the website structure instantiation is performed by a group

communication module of the group management system (where the user creates

a customized website for his or her team – See page 9); and

creating the group activity publication layout is performed by a group activity

publishing module of the group management system (where creating the

publication layout is displaying the created website to a second user – See page

12).

Regarding Claim 13, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 11 wherein:

creating the website structure instantiation includes associating each one of said

website structure instantiation content fields with a respective portion of said

information and creating the group activity publication layout includes associating

at least a portion of said publication layout content fields with respective portions

of said information (where the website includes displaying various content fields

Art Unit: 2146

such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 14, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 11 wherein: said information includes an administrator dataset and a plurality of participant datasets; the administrator dataset includes administrator content for at least one of the group activity publication and the website structure instantiation and includes content parameters for at least one of a group activity publication and a website structure instantiation (where the administrator dataset consists of content that is added or modified by one or more administrators – See page 9); each one of said participant datasets includes participant content for at least one of the group activity publication and the website structure instantiation (where the participant dataset consists of data that is publicly available to users who browse the team website – See page 12); and creating the website structure instantiation includes populating a website template instantiation with respective portions of said participant content and said administrator content at least partially dependent upon said content parameters (See team website entitled “Welcome to the home of the CVBA” on page 12).

Regarding Claim 15, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 14 wherein said at least one data processing device is further configured for automatically updating content of the website structure instantiation in response to corresponding portions said datasets being altered

Art Unit: 2146

thereby enabling said content of the website structure instantiation being dynamically maintained (the website content reflects content that has been added by a user (i.e. posting the results of a recent game) – See “Simple online administration” on page 12).

Regarding Claim 16, League Lineup teaches The system of claim 11 wherein creating the website structure instantiation includes:

providing the website structure instantiation with a first access level through
which group activity publication creation functionality is exclusively accessible
(an administrator creates or modifies the team website – See page 9);

providing the website structure instantiation with a second access level including
a plurality of respective content fields, wherein a first portion of said content
fields of the second access level are system-defined and a second portion of said
content fields of the second access level are specified through access to the first
access level (a user may register with League Lineup and post or reply to
messages in the forum belonging to a team website – See “Register Now!” on
page 9); and

providing the website structure instantiation with a third access level including
publicly accessible content, wherein information comprising said publicly
accessible content is inputted through at least one of the first access level and the
second access level (the team website is accessed over the internet by the public
after it is created – See page 12).

Art Unit: 2146

Regarding Claim 17, League Lineup teaches The system of claim 11 wherein:

the group activity publication layout includes a plurality of publication content

fields (the website includes displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12); and

creating the group activity publication layout includes associating each one of

said publication content fields with a respective portion of said information (the content fields include links to the corresponding information – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 18, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 11 wherein creating the group activity publication includes preparing a group activity publication layout, wherein the group activity publication layout includes system-defined content fields (the website includes displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12) and optional content fields corresponding to user-selected publication content options (the team website is “Completely customizable (colors, fonts, menu options, etc.)” – See page 9; the team website may also include photo albums and online polls – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 19, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 11 wherein creating the group activity publication layout includes:

accessing group activity publication layout information in response to a user

Art Unit: 2146

requesting creation of an activity publication, wherein said group activity publication layout information designated a plurality of textual content fields and a plurality of image content fields (League Lineup offers “Simple online administration” where a user may create a team website and add text and images which include team photos, schedules, game results and various other statistics – See page 9);

associating at least a portion of said textual content fields with respective portions of content of the website structure instantiation (the list of content fields displayed on the team website includes links to the information corresponding to each content field – See page 12); and

associating each one of said image content fields with a respective one of a plurality of image instantiations (photos may be sorted into separate albums corresponding to different events or categories – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 20, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 11 wherein creating the group activity publication layout includes:

accessing group activity publication layout information corresponding to the group instantiation, wherein said group activity publication layout information designates a plurality of publication content fields (the team website is “Completely customizable (colors, fonts, menu options, etc.)” – See page 9); and associating each one of said publication content fields with a respective portion

Art Unit: 2146

of said information representing the group of members and the group activity participated in by said members (the website includes displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 21, League Lineup teaches a group management system, comprising:
an information management module configured for managing information associated with a group of members and a group activity participated in by said members (where the administrator adds information and content to the team website – See page 9);

a group activity publishing module configured for facilitating creation of a group activity publication layout (where creating the publication layout is publicly displaying the created website to a second user – See page 12); and

a communication module configured for automatically creating and dynamically maintaining a website structure instantiation (where the administrator creates and may also modify or update a customized website for his or her team – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 22, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 21 wherein:

said facilitating creation of the group activity publication layout is performed

dependent upon accessing at least a portion of said information maintained by the information management module (the administrator accesses the League Lineup website to create his or her own team website – See page 9); and

said creating and maintaining the website structure instantiation are performed

Art Unit: 2146

dependent upon accessing at least a portion of said information maintained by the information management module (the administrator may access the League Lineup website in order to update or modify information on the team website – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 23, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 21 wherein each one of said modules are integrated with each other one of said modules for enabling sharing of information and functionality therebetween (the information management module, publication module, and communication module are integrated with each other because the functionality is achieved using a single application (i.e., a web browser) – See “No technical expertise is required as all information for your site is entered through our easy to use administration site.” on page 16).

Regarding Claim 24, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 21 wherein the communication module is further configured for transmitting, for reception by a designated portion of said members, portions of said information maintained by the information management module (the team website offers e-mail lists so that members will receive information when they sign up – See page 9).

Regarding Claim 25, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 21 wherein:
creating the website structure instantiation includes associating each one of the website structure instantiation content fields with a respective portion of said information and creating

Art Unit: 2146

the group activity publication layout includes associating at least a portion of said publication layout content fields with respective portions of said information (where the website includes displaying various content fields such as rosters, schedules, and the like as well as links to the corresponding information – See page 12).

Regarding Claim 26, League Lineup teaches the system of Claim 21 wherein:

creating the website structure instantiation includes populating a website

template instantiation with portions of group content (See team website entitled “Welcome to the home of the CVBA” on page 12); and

said information includes said group content (the information displayed on the

team website includes schedules, game results, and various other statistics – See page 12).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott M. Sciacca whose telephone number is (571) 270-1919.


The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Jeff Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2146

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS



JEFFREY PWU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER